

REMARKS

Claims 7, 8, 11, 12, 14 and 16-19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 4-6 are canceled. Reconsideration of the present application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 7, 8, 11, 12, 14 and 16-19 are allowed. Claims 4-6 are canceled to place the application in condition for allowance.

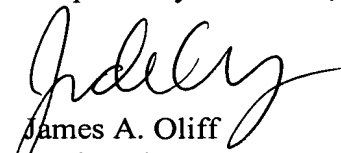
The Office Action rejects claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,138,618 to Genster; and claims 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Genster in view of DE 4105199 to Hofele. As discussed above, claims 4-6 are canceled. As such, the rejections of claims 4-6 are moot.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments place the application in condition for allowance by canceling finally rejected claims and do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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